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Public Distribution

Powerful Consumer Movement Needed

ONLY a powerful consumer movement can ensure the development of an improved public distribution system says the Economic times, Bombay, in an editorial while suggesting ways and means to improve the public distribution system in the country.

It says: Starting basically as a fire fighting operation during the second world war years, the public distribution system has become an essential feature of our economy. The primary objective of making consumer essentials available to weaker sections of the community at a price they can afford has been realised now and the public distribution system, which was till recently confined to the urban areas, has been extended to deficit rural areas, hill regions, industrial plantations, mining complexes and vulnerable backward settlements. This has led to a substantial increase in the number of retail outlets for controlled commodities, especially foodgrains, sugar, kerosene and clothing.

With over 2.30 lakh fair price shops more than 45 million people have been brought within the orbit of the public distribution system. Retail outlets of controlled cloth have increased to over 46,000 and of kerosene to 2.16 lakhs. The off take of foodgrains through these outlets of about 11 million tonnes annually is still only 10 percent of the total marketed surplus. Apart from the fair price shops, 17,000 urban and 53,000 rural consumer cooperatives together retailed goods valued at Rs. 750 Crores in 1974-75. This figure is estimated to have reached Rs. 900 Crores in 1975-76.

These developments are an expression of growing awareness of the catalytic role that the public distribution system can play in the pricing and marketing of consumer essentials. However, the recent hardening of prices, despite government efforts to help increased production, remove transport bottlenecks, crack down on economic offences and to monitor prices and availability of consumer essentials emphasise the need for further expansion and strengthening of the public distribution system, through a planned integration of production, procurement, pricing and marketing of consumer essentials.

Consumer co-operatives could be encouraged to set up suitable essential goods industries on a wide scale.

The public sector should also expand its activities in this area.

More effective measures would have to be taken to ensure procurement of the major portion of the marketable surplus of food grains. The levy system could, for this purpose, be related to the availability of essential inputs.

In the final analysis, however, only a powerful consumer movement can ensure the development of an improved public distribution system.

The Consumer Protection Council recently set up by Government, must try to involve the local people and give it the share of a mass movement. At the same time, it must exercise its authority to remove every man-made obstacle to the availability of pure and adequate consumer essentials in the right weight and at a reasonable price to the majority of the people.

Words to Remember

[Excerpts from the speeches of the Prime Minister]

In an interview to the Sanfransisco Examiner, the Prime Minister said: Outside they are always talking about Indian Poverty, and it is true we have poverty. We have more because we started on a much lower base, when we became Independent. The poverty and the lack of industry or wherewithal to build a nation was conspicuous by its absence.

We have more than doubled our food production-from 50 million tons to 114 million tons. We have some of the World's largest irrigation dams and added more than 55 million acres to the irrigated area. We have built up industry.

x x x

"My father regarded science as the most important key to the lessening of poverty and economic backwardness. We place great emphasis on the establishment of national laboratories and centres of advanced technical training. We have built up a research base and manpower capacity.

"This has also strengthened in the ten years because we have paid special attention to it but I would like to stress that our science is being used and will be used for economic development".

x x x

"You can go anywhere and see that there is no Police State atmosphere. In fact, throughout the Emergency we have not had to use the police at all, and the people are relaxed.

"The Emergency is intended to deal with grave internal disturbance which was no less than breakdown of the country. That dire possibility has been prevented. But forces which worked for it have not disowned their intentions."

x x x

"In every country peace time rights of citizens are definitely abridged in war time. Threat to defy laws and bring about a country-wide paralysis of the Government produces an almost war-like situation. The Emergency was a kind of shock treatment intended to tell the country that the nation cannot survive or the future be built if there is widespread indiscipline, if factories, railways, universities are not allowed to work.

"To-day there is no basic change in our philosophy."

THUS SPAKE THE MAHATMA

If the recognised leaders of mankind who have control over the engines of destruction were wholly to renounce their use, with full knowledge of its implications, permanent peace can be obtained. This is clearly impossible without the Great Powers of the earth renouncing their imperialistic design.

ASOKA SCENTED BETELNUT POWDER

Free India

SUNDAY May 9 1976

WEEDING OUT

AICC General Secretary Mrs. Maragatham Chandrasekhar is cent per cent correct in making the charge that a small section of Government officials in Tamil Nadu is trying to discredit President's rule by repeatedly harassing the weaker sections of the people.

An impresion is being Created among the people that the DMK rule was better.

The TNCC executive meeting at Thanjavur which was attended by Mr. D. K. Barooah, Congrss President, has passed a resolution mentioning about the "inhuman attitude" of some of the officers after the declaration of President's Rule.

Only recently Governor K.K. Shah personally saw the withering crop in a half acre plot following the forcible removal of pump-set by an official of the Land Development Bank. A newspaper report says the Governor who saw the withering crop was 'really moved' and ordered compensation to the affected ryot—the compensation amount to be recovered from the salary of the official concerned.

The problem is not simple. Infiltration by the DMK men at the lowest level of administration is deep. Weeding out is not easy. Only an alert public and an active Congress Party can bring about a change—but the results can be achieved only slowly.

Leadership

K.P. RAMAN PILLAI

Fluttering and dancing in the beautiful breeze
The Tricolour flies with all its brilliance,
Clanging a thousand golden bangles
The Yamuna flows on quietly beyond.

Freedom dawned with a thousand problems
But a little man was there to solve it all
He guided us like the morning star
Loved by all, hated by none.

But almighty God took him away
He wanted the Mahatma by his side
We lost a jewel, the most precious one
The nation's tears were of no avail.

On the banks of the Yamuna, on a sandal wood pyre
His mortal remains the flames consumed
Clanging a thousand golden bangles
The Yamuna flew on quietly beyond.

Then came Jawahar, the like of whom
The world will never see again
He loved children, he loved roses
He loved the mighty majestic rivers.

Wordly peace was his prime concern
He strode the stage like a colossus
Standing erect he told the world
Behold a Nation is rising up.

The stars looked down and were happy to see
A Nation prospering and leaping ahead
The moon looked down with its lovely face
And with celestial brilliance smiled on us.

But Almighty God was unkind to us
Our beloved Jawahar was snatched from us.
The peasants lost their genuine friend
The nation wept to its hearts content

On the banks of the Yamuna on a sandal wood pyre
The flames consumed his mortal remains
Clanging a thousand golden bangles
The Yamuna flew on quietly beyond.

Then came a man short in stature
But proved himself a man of steel
Again the Gods were unkind to us
Lal Bahadur left in a blaze of glory.

And in the drought and chaos that soon followed
Every one thought the nation was lost
But there emerged a serene figure
A worthy daughter of a worthy father.

The Priyadarsini lead us ahead
On to victory in a bitter fight
The person who shouted 'That worthless woman'
Learned too late his colossal blunder.

Solving a thousand knotty problems
Fighting against a thousand odds
Confident on the nation's might
She marches ahead with a mighty will

The snowy mountains, the majestic rivers
The blossomed flowers all wish her well
Clanging a thousand golden bangles
The Yamuna flows on quietly beyond.

Mulching: The Right Way

A few simple rules borne in mind while mulching summer vegetables, can help realize the full benefit from this pratice.

Mulching is known to help the vegetables grow and yield well by conserving moisture and maintaining a uniform temperature in the soil.

Studies have also indicated that there is an increase in helpful soil organisms, bacteria and other worms under stubble mulching.

In standing crops, the mulch should be applied when the plants are about 25 cm high. The mulch material should be evenly placed in the field taking care that no crop plant is suppressed. Usually a 5 cm deep layer of mulch is sufficient.

Before applying the mulch, one initial weeding is necessary. It is also advisable to give a little extra helping of nitrogen to a mulched crop.

Mulching is not beneficial in the early stages, when the temperature is low. Nor it is of any use if the summer rains are frequent.

JUST LAUNCHED

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20-POINT PROGRAMME

ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

Massive efforts were made during the last one decade to make a dent on poverty in the country. The new direction given to the nation's socio-economic effects by the Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi, first in her call for "Garibi Hatao" and then under the 20-point economic programme, has paved the way to achieve the people's aspirations of decades in a short span.

The progress of implementation of the 20-point economic programme is as under:—

Continuance of steps to bring down prices of essential commodities. Streamlined production, procurement and distribution of essential commodities. Strict economy in Government expenditure.

The prices of essential commodities had fallen throughout the country. The fall had been 7 per cent in the wholesale prices between July and December 1975. The minus rate of inflation which was attained in July 1975 (1.9 per cent) improved considerably and the consumer prices for industrial workers came down by 9.1 per cent at the end of December 1975 and for agricultural labourers by 19.5 per cent. Even the normal seasonal price rise and the pre-budget price increase was largely suppressed this year. There had been further improvement in the prices which have recorded further fall during the past three months. This has followed a number of steps taken by the Central and State Governments for improving production and availability of essential commodities in the country. There had also been a marked improvement in the functioning of public distribution system, which was strengthened throughout the country. A model distribution scheme had been implemented in Delhi and this is being extended to a number of other towns. A number of measures like issue of Package Commodities Order have been taken to safeguard the consumer's interest. Effective arrangements for procurement of foodgrains this year have helped in procuring rice in excess of the target. It is expected that the procurement may exceed over 5 million tonnes as against the target of 4.6 million tonnes.

In the industrial sphere significant increases in production were recorded in various critical sectors of the economy. The overall increase in industrial production in 1975–76 is estimated at 4.5 per cent as against 2.5 per cent in 1974–75 and a negative rate of growth in 1973–74. All the public sector undertakings maintained their improved performance. There had also been a marked improvement in capacity utilisation of selected public sector undertakings. The climate of industrial relations remained good and the number of man-days lost through industrial unrest in recent months was almost negligible. Along with it, action was taken to prevent unnecessary lay-offs and retrenchment of workers. For this purpose, necessary amendments were made in the law.

Implementation of agricultural land ceilings and speedy distribution of surplus land and compilation of land records.

Land ceiling laws in the States have been revised/enacted in line with the national guidelines. Most State laws have been included in the 9th Schedule to the Constitution. So far, a total of 1.19 million returns have been filed, of which 3 million were filed on official initiative. Of these, 600,000 cases have been disposed of yielding 930,000 acres of surplus land. The work relating to allotment of surplus land to the landless has been taken up in a few States and about 120,000 acres have already been allotted.

Implementation of land reforms and other programmes concerning the rural sector were discussed at the Conference of Chief Ministers recently. The Chief Ministers at their Conference reviewed the progress of implementation in detail and recommended various measures for expediting the implementation of land reforms and other programmes of rural sector. The States are taking action on these recommendations.

Stepping up of provision of house sites for landless and weaker sections

Over 6 million house sites have been allotted to the landless and weaker sections. The work has been substantially completed in a number of States. Of the house sites allotted, more than 368,000 house sites are developed sites. Some States like Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal have taken up programmes for construction of house sites allotted to the landless and/or for providing assistance to the allottees in constuction of houses. So far over 200,000 houses have been constructed.

States are also taking action to grant ownership tights to persons already in possession of house sites and to prevent their unauthorised eviction.

(To be Continued)

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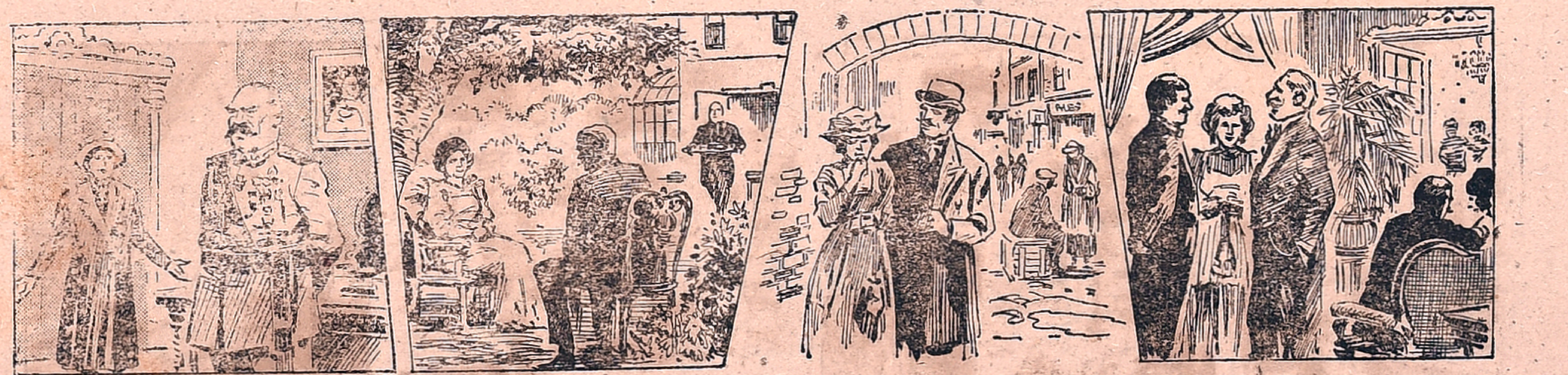
Women Of Courage — Lady Muriel Paget



On her arrival in Petrograd in 1916, tiny frail Lady Muriel Paget did not look very formidable, but elderly Russian generals soon learnt otherwise when she started badgering them to have some of the hospital unit of British surgeons and nurses she had organised from her sick bed in England sent to the front lines.

Nothing in the early life of Muriel Finch-Hatton hinted of the great role she was to play in international relief work. After her marriage to Richard Paget she had continued to lead the life of a pampered, socially-privileged semi-invalid until in 1905 at the age of 30 she accepted the honorary-secretaryship of a soup kitchen.

Richard had thought a little charity work might provide a distraction for Muriel, something of a hypochondriac. In fact, from the first day she visited the poor quarters of London and saw the conditions of the destitute poor, she discounted her frequent illnesses and devoted the rest of her life to helping the helpless.

For Muriel one day a week supervising the kitchen was not enough. Founding and running a network of kitchens, the Invalid Kitchens of London became a full-time job, one that involved active work among the sick and needy and the organisation of charity balls, using all her connections to raise funds.

(Contd. on next page)

FUN AND LAUGHTER

FISHY TALE!

A man on a hot July day is walking down a country road, and it seems that ahead of him a truck dropped a package in its rush, so this man sees nobody around, and he opens the package, and it's a lot of fish. He says, gee, fish—but you can't take a lost package. You ain't allowed to take it. I'll go down and find a policeman or somethin'. So he walked thirty miles in the hot sun with this package of fish, till he could get a policeman. And he comes to a police man, and he says, I found this package of fish on the road, and I didn't want to take it because there's the law, you know—so, I—I came to you for your advice. What shall I do with it?

The cop said, keep it for thirty days, and if nobody claims it—it's yours!

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KEPT HIS WORD!

A travelling salesman, caught in a torrential rainstorm, stopped overnight at a farmhouse. In the morning, he looked out on a flood coursing through the front yard. He watched pieces of fence, chicken coops, branches, and an old straw hat floating past with the current. Then he saw the straw hat comeback, upstream past the house! Then he saw the hat go down again.

Finally the salesman called the farmer's daughter. "Oh," she said, after a glance out of the window "that must be grandpa. He said yesterday that in spite of hell or high water he was going to mow the yard today."

* * *

LEFT TO HER!

Rita, a seven year-old girl, was talking with her father about the new baby that was coming.

When asked if she would like to have a little brother since she already had a little sister, Rita said no, she didn't want a brother, she wanted another little sister.

When her father tried to get her to change her mind, she became so angry she almost cried, and said: "All right. All right, Have it your own way."

* * *

HONEST REPLY

"Would you say he is dishonest?"

"Not actually, but after shaking hands with him one instinctively counts ones fingers."

ANNOYING CHILD

Little Oscar Fotzengogle was out with his mother and his little sister, Phoebe. They were on the train going out to their home town. About half way out, Oscar says, "Mama, mama, what was the name of that station we passed back there?"

"Just a minute, don't annoy me. I'm reading Forever Amber again."

"But don't you know the name of the station?" asked Oscar.

"No, I don't" she says.

"You're going to be sorry," he says, "because little Phoebe fell off the train there."

* * *

A PART OF ME!

Rowdyism at high school hockey games caused police to be alert and watchful. A suburban policeman, on guard against possible disturbances, stood at one of the local stadium gates, watching the high school pupils pour in for the game. Every now and then he would tap a youngster, point to a bulging pocket in the youngster's coat, and receive a lemon or an orange that probably had been brought along for target practice.

Finally the cop stopped a teenage girl. He pointed.

"What's that?" he asked.

"Just me," the girl said as she strolled on toward the stands.

Not The Worst

The orchestra leader said to the violinist. 'Did you hear what happened to our cornet player? Mrs. Bliviz invited him to her home. Her husband was out of town but he returned unexpectedly, and hit him with a knife right in the back."

"So what?" the violinist replied. "It could be worse."

"Wait a minute. He then knocked out his teeth, cut his eyes, broke his jaw, broke both legs and shot five bulletts into him."

"It could be worse," repeated the violinist.

"What do you mean? Cuts him with a knife, tears out his teeth, knocks out his eyes, breaks his legs and you say it could be worse?"

"Yes. I was there the night before."

PLAIN SPEAKING

The bus was getting more crowded with each stop. The driver had vainly urged the bus. Finally, he stopped. He turned to those nearest him, and, asked:

"Do you think I look like Clark Gable?"

"No," came the prompt reply.

"Like Van Johnson or Robert Young?"

"No, you don't"

"Well, folks, I'm just plain Tom Brown, so please quit hanging around my neck, and move back."

It worked.

From previous page

Women Of Courage

When war broke out in 1914 Muriel, now Lady Muriel and the mother of four, first worked for Belgian refugees On hearing of the appalling casualty rates among Russian troops, she decided a British goodwill gesture was needed and with her customary fervour drew up a subscription list and toured military hospital in France getting ideas.

Ill health prevented her accompanying the hospital unit to Petrograd, but as soon as she could get up she followed it. A harrowing tour of the areas near the front line brought her in touch with the full horrors of war—casualties lying unattended in squares and gardens waiting, often hopelessly, for a nurse or surgeon.

She wanted her field unit moved from a relatively safe area into the thick of the fighting where it could do the most good. She got her way and spent considerable time at the front herself, shirking neither bombs nor sickening sights and smells in her efforts to bring comfort to wounded soldiers.

Although essentially an administrator, she was always prepared to do anything and with the desparate scarcity of nurses took over a ward for a time. Told an amputee could not live beyond two days, she nursed him tenderly, if inexpertly, fed him on eggs beaten in milk and laced with brandy until he eventually made a complete recovery.

Muscle Drugs Harmless, Freiburg Medics Claim

Freiburg (DaD) – Anabolics do athletes no harm, according to a survey conducted by specialists in sports medicine at Freiburg University, Federal Republic of Germany. Top-flight athletes will no doubt breathe a sigh of relief on hearing the news, though whether sports officials will do so is another matter.

The survey was conducted by a team of doctors headed by Professor Keul of Freiburg University Hospital and their findings published in a report entitled Anabolic Hormones: Damage, Performance and Metabolism. The conclusion reached was that muscle drugs are not dangerous and their use cannot be proved in the long term. Ethical objections to their use may be tenable, medical objections are not.

Twenty-five human guinea pigs were given regular medical checks over a period of three years. Some were athletes, others not. The athletes were weightlifters. A further 59 athletes who admitted to taking anabolics were examined and found, on average, to boost their performances by seven per cent.

None were found to have heart, kidney or liver trouble that might be attributed to taking muscle drugs. There were no signs of bone fractures, periostitis, sprained or torn tendons or muscles either. All have been claimed to occur as a result of taking anabolics. The Freiburg specialists also allayed fears lest muscle drugs make men impotent. Similarly, stamina and endurance were not found to go by the board.

So drug-induced muscle would appear to have been completely rehabilitated, at least from the medical viewpoint. Anabolics cannot be classified as on a par with doping. What is more, proof of their use has been found difficult to provide, not to say impossible. They are based on male sex hormones, which are part of the body's natural make-up. At the best of times their use can only be proved within a few weeks of a course of treatment.

Women athletes need to be more careful, taking smaller but no less effective doses so as to avoid developing masculine features. Professor Keul himself, mind you, is totally opposed to fattening up athletes in this way even though there may be no medical grounds why he should be. He merely feels it is unfair on others who do not resort to their use.

Professor Keul is all in favour of prescribing a course of treatment to patients enfeebled after major surgery or serious illness. Anabolics are also suitable as a means of adding to the muscles of old people. *—Franz Germer.*

Sound Pollution

Pierre Cochereau, organist at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, says he was perplexed by the call of the New York Legislature for a ban on landings of the Concorde supersonic liner at John Kennedy Airport because of excessive noise. The noise developed by Concorde, he says is 108 decibels, while the Notre Dame organ puts out 114 decibels. Incidentally, he often invites American organists. "I am now wondering," he is reported to have said, "if it will be possible in the future to invite American organists to Notre Dame in Paris without dangerously exceeding the sound pollution tolerated by American ears."

Strong Glass Used For Tape Reels

Glass that is 10 times stronger than ordinary glass is used for precision tape reels by a New York State manufacturer. Since the stiffness of the glass protects the tape edges from damage, the reel is used extensively in wide-band instrumentation tape systems, particularly by governments and organizations needing a high degree of data protection on computer tapes. It also has applications in video tape systems, according to the manufacturer.

"The flanges cannot dent, warp or take a permanent bend," according to a manufacturer's representative. "An inherent property of glass is that it always returns to its precise original dimension after deflection short of fracturing."

The manufacturer points out that the glass flange has no openings, as most metal and plastic flanges do, so tape life and signal quality are increased since temperature and humidity changes are uniform and not concentrated at flange holes.

Data Shield tape reels up to 14 inches (35 centimeters) in diameter do not break or crack even when a two-and-one-eighth-inch (5.3 cm.) steel ball is dropped on them from a height of two feet (60 cm.), the manufacturer says. If an unexpected break should occur, the flanges are coated with a tough plastic material that restrains the glass fragments for safety and convenience.

Users of *Data Shield* can easily see all of their tape through the clear glass, which also keeps dust and dirt away from the tape during handling. With the simple addition of a reel band, *Data Shield* becomes a protective container.

Threading closed-flange reels has sometimes been a problem in the past. *Data Shield* has a coating on its precision hub, causing the end of the tape to cling to the hub. If it doesn't work the first time, the operator can spin the reel momentarily to create the attraction, then immediately begin winding on the tape.

• The manufacturer is Corning Glass Works, Corning, New York 14830. The reels are being exported world-wide.

Lady Muriel Paget

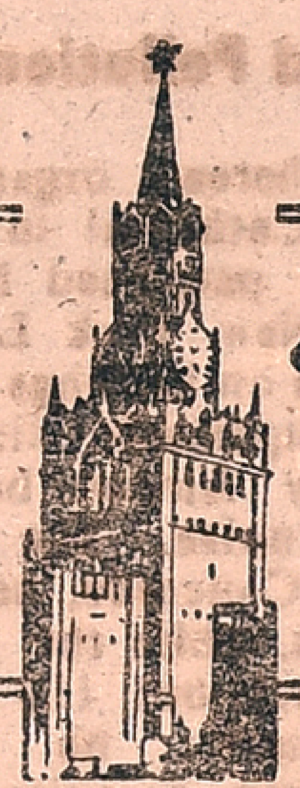
When a callous general refused Muriel permission to transfer some shell-shocked patients to a safer position on doctors' advice, she took matters into her own hands and moved them in motor ambulances, squeezing herself in between two stretchers armed with a tourniquet as one man was in danger of having a haemorrhage.

Her work was recognised by the Russians with the Medal of St. George for "valour, self-abnegation and humanity shown by her under heavy fire". Not surprisingly, when she returned to England at the onset of the Russian winter her health cracked up, but from her bed she organised field hospitals and invalid kitchens.

After the February Revolution in 1917, Muriel again left her family, whom she frankly neglected, for Russia. On the night of the Bolshevik rising in Petrograd she braved the streets to return to her hospital. On finding herself looking into the mouth of a revolver, she laughingly pushed it aside, and the dumbfounded soldier let her pass.

Following another gruelling spell at the front with the field hospital, Muriel made a perilous journey to Kiev where typhoid raged. She went down with the disease herself and became a patient in her own Petrograd hospital, where, accustomed to combining illness with work, she supervised newly-recruited women orderlies from her bed.

(Contd. on next page)



Muscovite's Diary

Ivan Ivanov

FIVE-YEAR-OLDS RUN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Most of our big factories have nursery schools and most of them have musical groups for the youngsters but few can match Leningrad's Red Viborg Works. It has formed a 20-strong symphony of five and six year olds. This orchestra performs works by Mozart, Shostakovich and Khachaturyan excellently.

Lyudmila Arkhipova is music teacher at the kindergarten, which has kept its symphony orchestra going for ten years now, constantly renewing its members as the older musicians move on to primary school. She says that their chief purpose "is to develop in our charges a love for music beginning with early childhood irrespective of whether they will later become professional musicians, or workers, doctors and scientists. A child's education cannot be complete these days if it hasn't learned to love and understand music and has not become a 'qualified listener'!"

VERY HARD TO BEAR

A nice story from Syktyvkar, in north-east Russia. An amateur painter named Foteyev and a friend went off into the country for the weekend. Let Foteyev tell what happened:

"I set up my easel and started painting, and my pal took his fishing tackle and set out along the river bank...To my surprise he was back in about ten minutes, standing behind me, watching me paint...There he stood, fidgetting about, quite unlike his usual considerate self...He knows as well as I do that artists and fishermen hate anybody looking over their shoulder...Then he put his hand on my shoulder and grunted something. That was the last straw. Without looking round, I slapped his hand and shouted, 'Oh, do clear off!'

"In return I got a great clout which sent me and the easel flying...'Are you barmy, you clumsy great bear?' I yelled... And then, to my horror, I saw who my assailant was: a real bear, lumbering away growling!"

INTERESTING, ISN'T IT!

Costly Favour

Flying to a conference in Kansas, General Bernard Rogers forgot his golf shoes in Georgia. His subordinates immediately sent them after him...in an otherwise empty military plane. The delivery flight was disclosed by Senator William Proxmire in criticizing military waste of taxpayer's money. To quash the clamour the disclosure had made and teach others not to make free use of the Pentagon coffers, Rogers' superiors ordered him to pay $931.60 to the U.S. government. The favour was indeed a costly one for the General.

* * *

Radioactive Hashish

The directors of the nuclear research centre at Harwell, Britain, are trying to unravel a a mystery that is far removed from science. Th steel drums in which it dumps radioactive waste covered with concrete into the sea come from Pakistan. Recently a number of such casks from Harwell, which should be lying on the sea-bed with their lethal cargo, were discovered in the possession of of London drug vendors. They were used by smugglers for transporting hashish. How did they get these drums? Surely not from the sea bottom.

Computerized Saints

Cybernetics has not by-passed paradise. Donald Wenistein and Rudolf Bell, two American professors, process for computers and insert in their electronic minds all that is known about the saints who lived from the 11th to the 17th century. The professors patiently code and perforate the biographical data of more than 2,000 saints, the miracles they had wrought, etc. When their job is done, Wenistein and Bell say, they will have a "collective biography of saints."

* *

Solomonic Compromise

An old lady recently moved into a small French town in the Maritime Alps with her five dogs. Soon her neighbours began to complain about the noise they made and the nuisance they committed. The Mayor, however, refused to take any steps because the old lady had no money to buy coal to heat her place and the dogs warmed her on cold nights. The complaints reached the prefect of the department and he found a way out. No, he did not help her financially. He suggested a compromise–to dispose of three of the five dogs. The neighbours would be satisfied and the old lady would not be wholly deprived of her source of warmth.

From previous page

Women Of Courage

Lady Muriel Paget

Unmindful of the danger she stayed on, establishing feeding centres in the chaos and terror of Odessa and Kiev, until she was eventually compelled to leave. During the hazardous overland train journey across Siberia to Vladivostok she made firm friends with the exiled Czech nationalist leader Thomas Masaryk.

It was President Masaryk's daughter who appealed to Muriel to help fight famine and disease in the new state of Czechoslovakia. By 1920 this some what eccentric middleaged woman was organising relief operations in Slovakia, the Crimea, the Baltic States and Rumania, constantly bombarding officials for money, forever travelling, using any means available.

During the 1930s Muriel made a number of visits to Russia, where she was remembered for her wartime exploits, to help displaced British subjects, mostly elderly widows, often born in Russia, and unable to speak English but unwilling to leave. Muriel personally sought them out and comforted them in their stark surroundings.

She set up a country home for them and before her death in 1938 worked feverously on their behalf, but finally they had to leave Russia. One of the many foreign decorations Lady Muriel received, a Japanese medal, was given to "one who nurses not only with the head but with the heart". It described her well. —END.

NEXT WEEK :—A FAMOUS MYSTERY

Operation to discover the functioning of the defective brain through introduction of electrodes.

Man's New Contact With His Own Brain

VALERI DYOMIN

FOR nine years, school teacher Maria suffered from chronic hyperkinesia, a disease of the brain accompanied by excessive involuntary body movements.

However, things improved after Maria had undergone an operation with the introduction of electrodes into her brain performed at the Institute of Experimental Medicine in Leningrad. She resumed her works, got married.

The recovery of another patient, 26-year-old Donata, hospital nurse in Kazakhstan, will be recorded in the history of medicine as the first case of complete recovery from complex hyperkinesia (Wilson-Konovalov's disease) without any destruction of the brain cells, exclusively through their "re-education".

After trepanation, into Donata's skull, was introduced through the small hole a "fan" of six wires so fine that they did not affect it in the least.

It took several months to study the behaviour of Donata's diseased brain. She went about doing her normal work, or undergoing various motor and psychological tests, while the apparatus collected the data which were then processed by computers. At last it was found to which particular points of the brain electric signals should be sent in order to break the vicious circle of self stimulation without disturbing the numerous normal functions of the brain at the same time.

For two and a half months, twice a week Donata's brain was subjected to painless electric shocks. Wilson-Konovalov's disease was cured.

The recovery of Maria and Donata constitutes only two examples of the successful treatment of numerous patients at the well-known centre of Soviet medical science.

About half the cases being treated by the scientists of the institute are complex. This makes it possible to concentrate the efforts of various specialists on the most important trends.

Besides memory in the common meaning of the word, there is also a memory of each separate cell, of each functional system like the blood circulation system, for instance, and, lastly, of the organism as a whole. Thus vaccination is effective because through it the organism remembers its microscopic enemies. But sometimes in order to conquer a disease the organism sacrifices a certain function which is not very important at the time in the interests of a more important one. However, when the disease is conquered and its source destroyed, the organism "forgets" to return to its previous healthy state. It still continues to make the "sacrifice" no longer necessary "from memory". Thus a stable pathological condition is created which has a corresponding matrix in the brain. Such, according to Bekhtereva, is the general mechanism of many diseases which are called chronic. The task of restoring the memory of health to the organism can be accomplished if the mechanism for controlling it is found. In man this mechanism is connected with the activity of the central nervous system.

This explains why a large part of the research work being done at the institute is connected with the study of the central nervous system.

Treatment by means of electrodes implanted in the brain provides special opportunities for controlling the "memory of health". The group of scientists headed by Natalya Bekhtereva has obtained results even a brief enumeration of which is very impressive. They are:

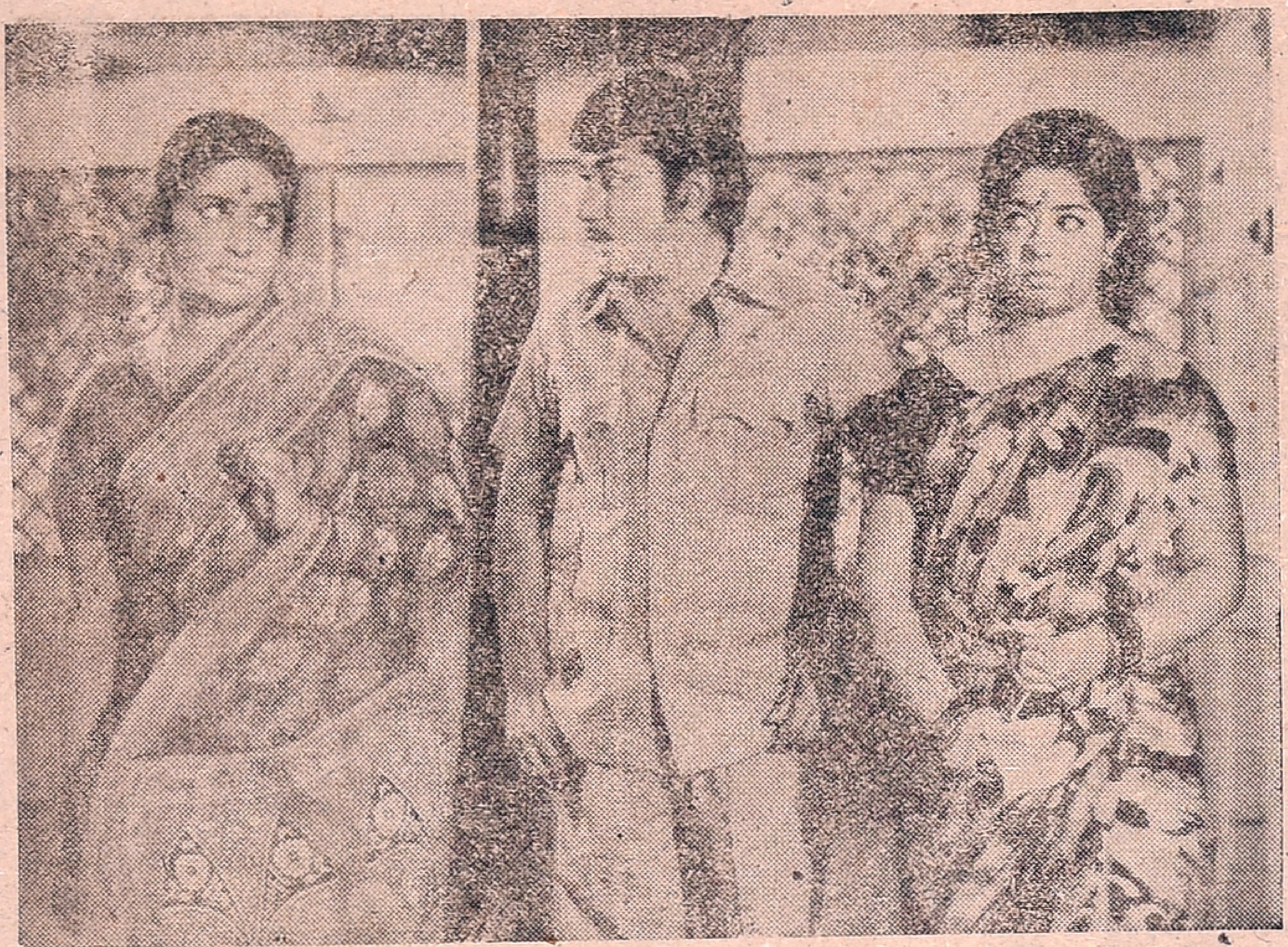
Successful treatment of the syndrome of phantom pain (for several years a person suffered from severe pain in the arm which had been amputated. Surgical and medicinal treatment did not help).

Recovery of a patient from an "epileptic status" by means of implanted electrodes (an "epileptic status" is an epileptic attack of long duration often ending fatally).

The discovery of a "detector of mistakes"–a group of brain cells controlling human activity. The report of this discovery has been carried by many newspapers of the world not only because this "detector" is used by everyone. For instance, one leaves the house and forgets to switch off the electric iron. Or one has made a mistake in calculation and does not suspect it. One does not suspect it, but

(Contd. on page 8)

Before treatment this young lady was unable to perform even simple actions because of involuntary tremors of her body. Now she can even thread a needle.



Sivaji Ganesan trying to resolve the misunderstanding between K. R. Vijaya and Jaya in the film "Grahapravesam" directed by Yoganand

FILM REVIEW

Varaprasadam

Cine Chitra Combines' "Varaprasadam", in Tamil, is yet another mediocre film that has come to the screen recently.

The story is about a well to do girl who loves a poor boy, but marries an alleged killer by force of circumstances and works up hard to save her husband.

Jayachitra plays as the girl in distress efficiently. Ravichandran and Vijayakumar have done their best. Though the cast includes 'Major' Sundararajan, M. N. Rajam, Manorama, Surilirajan and a host others, it is Asokan who stands out through his dignified portrayal of the honest dispassionate judge.

Produced by the trio, Raghu, Kasturi and Narasimhan, it has story and dialogue written by K. S. Madhangan.

Pulamai Pithan and Valampuri John have composed the songs and R. Govardhan has set them to tunes.

K. Narayanan is responsible for screen play and direction.

—

L. P. Record Released

Mr. K.K. Shah, Governor of Tamil Nadu, released the L P. Record of "Dhayasadhagam" sung by Mani Krishnaswami at a function recently.

Mr. Rajagopala Raju, Executive Officer, Thirupathi-Tirumala Devasthanam, received the first record.

Mr. Kannan of Saraswathi Stores welcomed the distinguished invitees.

FILM NEWS AND NOTES

Uazhaikkum Karangal

K.C. Films' "Uzhaikkum Karangal", Tamil Colour film, featuring M.G.R. and Latha in the leading roles, is scheduled to be released on May 23 in Madras and all over the South.

Produced by Kovai Chezhian it has story and diaglogue written by Nanjil K. Manoharan. K. Sankar has directed the film.

— —

Indru Pol Endrum Vazhga

Shooting for the film 'Indru Pol Endrum Vazhga', M.G.R., Rahda Saluja, V. Gopalakrishnan and Vijayakumar participating, was held on the floors of AVM Studios all through the night recently. This colour Tamil film is directed by K. Sankar for Subbu Productions.

— —

Uthaman

Director Rajendra Prasad was busy shooting skating sequences for his film 'Uthaman' at the AVM Studios, last week.

Sivaji Ganesan and Manjula, who play the leading roles, participated in the shooting schedule which was carried on even in the late night.

Balamurugan is writing the dialogue for the film produced under the banner Jagapathi Art Pictures.

Sivathandavam

An English song, sung by Kamalahasan and Usha Uthup, was recorded recently at the AVM Studio's recording room. It was recorded for the Malayalam film "Sivathandavam", produced by Abhayam Movies.

Jayasudha is paired with Kamalahasan and Kalpana will be doing an important role in it.

Padmanabhan has written the story. Sankaran Nair is writing the dialogue and also directs the film.

—

Nee Vazha Vendum

The Muhurat of Fathima Amutha Combines' maiden venture in Tamil "Nee Vazha Vendum" was held on May 6 at Vauhini Studios at Madras.

Produced by N.R. Amudha and Fathima, it has Muthuraman and Sunitra leading the cast that includes V. Gopalakrishnan, Surilirajan, 'Vennira Adai' Murthy, 'Typist' Gopu, Sukumari, Manorama and A. Sakuntala.

Vijaya Ganesan is writting the story and dialogue. M.S. Viswanathan will be composing the musical notes. Screen play and direction is by veteran director A. Bhimsingh.

T.V. For Mercy Home

Film star Jaisankar has arranged a gift of a Television receiver set for the benefit of the inmates of the Mercy Home. Jaisankar is taking a keen interest in social and welfare activities. He has been helping the Mercy Home for a long time.

4th International Film Festival In Tashkent

R. Abdullayeva, Chairman of the Organising Committee of the International Film Festival in Tashkent and Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Uzbekistan has written an article in the *Izvestia* on the growing popularity of the Tashkent Film Festival among the developing countries. "The growing representative character of the International Film Festival in Tashkent", the Chairman says, "is testimony to the great prestige they command among the art workers in the developing countries and to the Soviet Union's profound interest in developing friendly relations and many-sided cooperation with Asian, African and Latin American nations."

As is well known, the first International Film Festival in Tashkent in 1968, had attracted participants and guests from 49 countries. Their number rose to 62 in 1972 and to 70 in 1974. The programme of the third festival in 1974 included 83 feature films and 93 shorts. The 4th International Film Festival in Tashkent which is to open on May 19th is expected to attract an even greater number of Asian, African and Latin American countries. The motto of the Festival is: 'for Peace, Social Progress and Freedom of the Peoples".

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one's " detector" warns one that something is wrong.

During the diagnosis and medical treatment with implanted electrodes the scientists of the institute have examined about 2,000 brain zones. Diagrams have been prepared of the cerebral organisation of emotions.

Prof. Natalya Bekhtereva

What next? New ways of treating mental diseases? The elimination of undesired results of nervous overstrain? The discovery of new potentialities of the brain? It is still difficult to say. One thing is clear, however, we are on the threshold of a new phase.

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